In the Specification:

Replace paragraph [273] on page 86 with the following:

[273] Two alternative splice forms of RET16 (also called RET16.1 herein), i.e., RET16.2 and RET16.3, have been identified. RET16.2 was identified from human microvascular endothelial cells treated with TNF-α using PCR amplification. Briefly, in an effort to clone the full-length coding sequence of RET16, a second band of lesser size was amplified, in addition to the 1500 bp RET16 amplimer. This second amplimer migrated slightly less than 1300 bp. Both fragments were cloned into pTAdv TA cloning vector and were sequenced. Exon fragments from RET16 were aligned with the second amplimer sequence, called RET16.2, a splice variant of RET16. Four exons were found to be deleted in RET16.2. These exons are exon 5-8 and correspond to WD repeats #6 and #7. The cDNA clone of the RET16.2 splice variant was deposited with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), 10801 University Boulevard, Manassas, VA 20110-2209 under Accession No. PTA-3161 on March 7, 2001 under the terms of the Budapest Treaty. Accordingly, the present invention provides the RET16.2 cDNA nucleic acid sequence comprising ATCC Deposit Accession No. PTA-3161.